eHealth Care Quality and Patient Safety Board
Financing Workgroup
June 5, 2006
Discussion Summary

(Note: In place of formal meeting minutes, the proceedings of the meeting are available on an audio CD upon request.)

Members Present: Kevin Hayden, Kendra Jacobson, Brad Manning, Jo Musser, Don Percy, Greg Simmons, Tim Size.

Staff Present: Donna Friedsam, Susan Wood, Seth Foldy (by teleconference)

Discussion Points
- Look at the range of financial estimates.
- Range of functionality that is anticipated/expected will determine the costs and financing needed.
- Costs scaled for smaller rural communities.
- Consider return on investment (ROI) relative to the escalating costs of care. Find approaches to quick ROI – possibly electronic delivery of lab results and pharmacy.
- Include physician/personnel efforts and effect on productivity. Must re-engineer processes, work flow, eliminate redundancy.
- Shift discussion from "quality" to "safety."
- Consider various sectors' ability and responsibility to contribute: front-end costs and ongoing maintenance and operating costs.
- Phase-in considerations. Modular adoption. Consider proximate availability.
- Open system platform – potential to be provided at low cost, particularly for rural areas.

Principles for evaluating approaches:
- Correspondence between marginal costs and marginal benefits.
- Consistency of platforms and standards for inter-operability.
- Consider whether it eliminates costs, reduces costs, or reduces the rate of increase in costs.
- Look for early wins/low-hanging fruit.
- Statewide approach.
- Political feasibility.
- Consistent with federal initiatives.
- Anticipate barriers.
- Maximum consistency/synergy with existing efforts. Not a blank slate.
- Must consider new developments and incorporate legacy systems.
- Solutions/approach should be: practical, preferable to alternatives, prudent of stakeholder sensitivity, prevalent (statewide).

Next Steps:
- Look at financing approaches in other states and possibly other countries.
- Consider financing incentives for start-up.
- At what point does RIO kick in?
- Create table/matrix of entities, functionality, and approach.
- Gather data on baseline hardware and software needs in Wiscosnin.